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THE INSTANT CAMPUS, A REMEDY FOR JUNIOR COLLEGE GROWING PAINS.

BY- SOFOKIDIS, JEANETTE H.

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THIS ARTICLE DESCRIBES VARIOUS INTERIM CAMPUSES FOR USE IN COMMUNITIES WHERE THE DEMAND FOR CLASSROOM FACILITIES IS TOO URGENT TO WAIT FOR FINANCING AND CONSTRUCTION OF PERMANENT BUILDINGS. AMONG STRUCTURES SERVING AS TEMPORARY QUARTERS ARE FARM BUILDINGS, AIR BASES, DEPARTMENT STORES, HIGH SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES, ARMORIES, HOUSING PROJECTS, ETC. IF THESE BUILDINGS ARE ON THE SITE ALREADY CHOSEN FOR THE PERMANENT CAMPUS, SOME OF THEM CAN BE ALTERED FOR LATER USE AS SERVICE, MAINTENANCE, OR OTHER QUARTERS. THIS ARTICLE IS PUBLISHED IN "AMERICAN EDUCATION," VOLUME 3, NUMBER 8, SEPTEMBER 1967. (HH)

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A remedy for junior college growing pains

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIF.
LOS ANGELES
JAN 29 1967
CLEARINGHOUSE FOR
JUNIOR COLLEGE
INFORMATION

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By JEANETTE H. SOT

Young people around Rockford, Ill., attend college on a former farm. In Dallas, Tex., some 5,000 students go to college in a renovated downtown department store. Near Bartow, Fla., Polk Junior College's 1967 graduates learned in classrooms on a municipal air base.

"You can't build a brand new campus overnight," says Bill J. Priest, president of Dallas County Junior College District, "even if you have the money. So, if the needs are great enough, you improvise in order to meet the immediate educational requirements of your community. You establish an interim campus."

The interim campus—some call it the instant campus—has become a fact of life in the fast-developing community junior college field. "One-a-week" has become a kind of watchword, w
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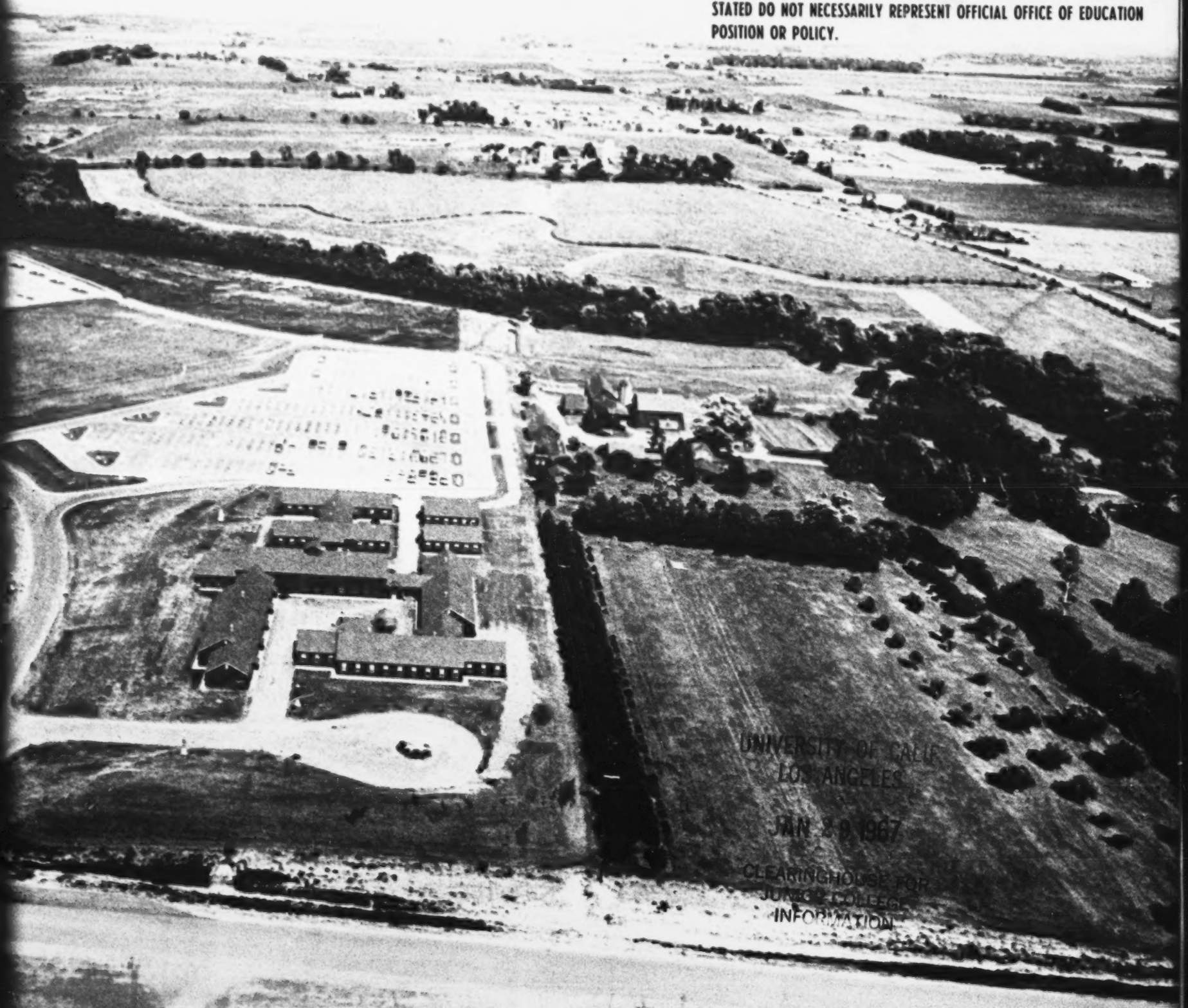

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The interim campus—some call it the instant campus—has become a fact of life in the fast-developing community junior college field. "One-a-week" has become a kind of watchword, what with 50 new colleges springing up in each of the past two years and that many more opening this fall.

The headlong growth of public junior colleges has been spurred by high school graduates' increased demand for college entry,

There's time to enjoy the woods and stream on the Rock Valley campus before heading back to classes or the student center, presently housed in a converted barn, below right.

because the number of jobs requiring only high school training is steadily shrinking. Also there's a pressing need to make higher education universally available for its generally recognized function as an aid to healing many social ills. To meet the growing demands and needs, many States have launched community college development programs, usually as a part of general plans for the improvement of higher education.

To put college opportunity in reach of residents, citizens of Boone and Winnebago counties in Illinois voted in a 1964 referendum to create Rock Valley Junior College. The problem of facilities was solved by borrowing space here and there around Rockford. "We wanted to get started right away," says Clifford G. Erickson, president. "The community needed a college. We couldn't wait."

The following fall, classes began in an unusual assortment of buildings in Rockford—the Naval Reserve training center, a suburban high school, the public library, the Young Women's Christian Association, and the National Guard Armory. Last year a 217-acre parcel of land was purchased through board action and the fledgling college moved into temporary quarters on the site. Work is expected to begin shortly on the first phase of a construction project that will eventually put up 16 permanent buildings at a cost of 20 million dollars. Among the funds being used to get the new college going are a million dollar Federal construction grant under title I of the Higher Education Facilities Act, a three-quarter-million dollar

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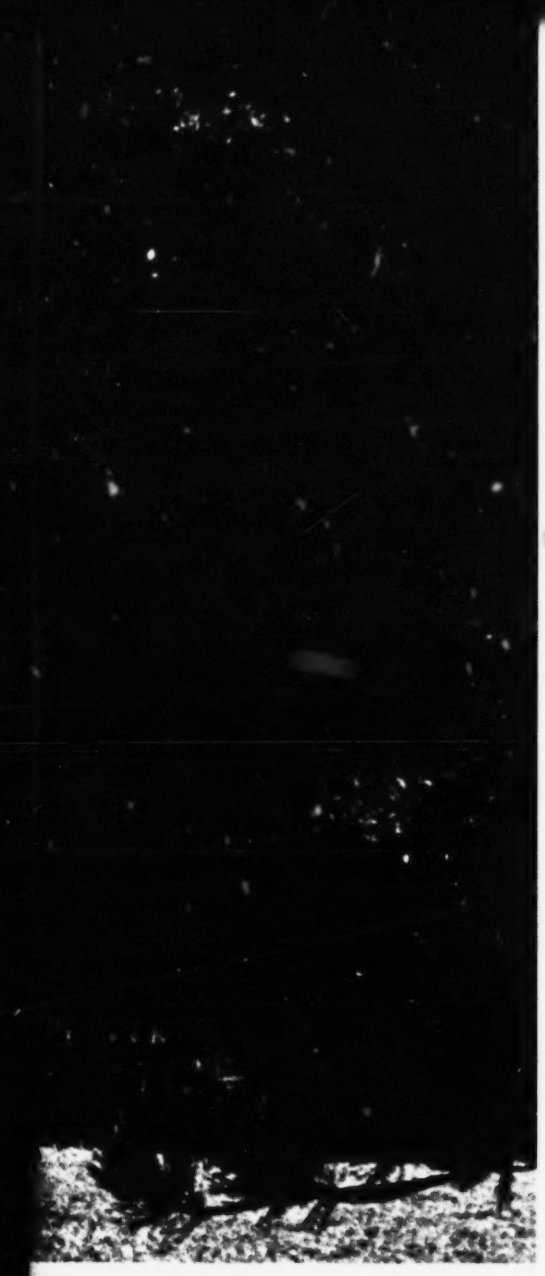

In the renovated dairy barn, students get together over coffee, put on hootenannies, music and theater productions, and publish a newspaper and yearbook.

Vocational Education Act grant for vocational-technical equipment, and about 35,000 dollars for library resources under title II of the Higher Education Act.

Meantime, in their temporary quarters, students receive the benefits of a comprehensive community college education. The low cost programs are of such variety that individual needs and abilities can be satisfied. Traditional freshman and sophomore liberal arts and general education courses can be transferred to four-year institutions, and a wide array of semiprofessional and technical programs prepare students for fairly sophisticated jobs at the end of two years or less. Too, there are many opportunities for adult education.

The college's 21 classrooms and laboratory facilities are temporarily housed in simple buildings that will later be used for maintenance and service headquarters.

Students enjoy adequate, though makeshift, facilities for campus activities. Many come directly from high school and need at least a partial fulfillment of their dream of traditional campus life. The farm's huge dairy barn was renovated as a student center, where students hold dances and hootenannies, and attend theater and music productions. The school paper and yearbook staffs and the student commission conduct business there. Half the barn contains an 8,700 volume library and a reading room.

Rock Valley's story is being duplicated far and wide. In Dallas, voters passed a 41 million dollar bond issue two years ago to start an area-wide system of junior colleges. In September 1966, downtown evening college op
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Community College of Philadelphia, also operating in a remodeled department store until a new 30 million dollar center city campus can be built, graduated its first class in June 1967.

Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland started four years ago in an old school building, leased for one dollar a year, and

Cuyahoga Community College students parade through downtown Cleveland demonstrating glee at start of a new me

in nearby quarters formerly occupied by the Internal Revenue Service. Its plan for an ultra-modern city center won an award for campus planning in the competition sponsored jointly by the U. S. Office of Education, the Educational Facilities Laboratories, and the American Institute of Architects. Cuyahoga's dean of planning and development, J. Philip Dalby, says of community college design:

"Most of the persons attending this college will not have any other opportunity to gain a higher education. It is considered important that the physical environment be accessible, pleasant, and stimulating for these students. Many will be on campus several hours each day for study and for social and cultural experiences. Others who work and attend school on a part-time basis during the day or evening must find the college facilities adequate to their special requirements."

Cuyahoga's enrollment has been snowballing—3,000 the first year, 6,000 the second year, 9,000 the third—and may reach 14,000 this year. The western campus, accounting for about one-fourth of the enrollment, occupies a piece of Federal surplus property, the former Crile Veterans Administration Hospital.

A spot check of some other facilities now in use around the country and the campus planning going on reveals a wealth of ingenuity:

■ Florida Junior College at Jacksonville opened temporary quarters in fall 1966 in a school and remodeled housing project. Over 2,300 students enrolled. It plans three campuses to accommodate 20,000 students.

■ Borough of Manhattan Community College operates in rented space in a modern, air-conditioned office building. It plans a 35 million dollar campus.

Essex County College, Newark, N. J., not yet open, is planning two campuses. One in downtown Newark is part of an urban renewal project and will cost about 22 million dollars.

■ Cypress Junior College in North Orange County, Calif., sprang up full-blown in what must be a world record for instant campuses—permanent buildings, prefabricated construction, ready to use just 74 days after ground breaking.

■ Sioux Empire College, Hawarden, Iowa, will begin serving the rural four-State area of northwestern Iowa, northeastern Nebraska, southeastern South Dakota, and southwestern Minnesota this fall and anticipates an opening enrollment of 300. Farm buildings are being removed one-by-one from the campus site to make way for the classrooms and dormitories that will all be ready this month. Meanwhile, classes were held once a week last school year and three times a week this past summer in the college's one permanent building to date—the library-office. Of the original farm buildings, only two will be retained: a three-sided building that formerly served as a hog shelter has been renovated and expanded for use as a dining hall, and a machine shed has been kept for storage purposes.

■ Seattle Community College opened in the fall of 1966 with 12,000 full-time and part-time students. Temporary locations, mostly in public schools, were scattered around the city. Two complete new campuses are being planned.

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With community junior college growth expected to continue at its present pace for at least three more years, the planners' ingenuity will get plenty of exercise. The U.S. Office of Education's Associate Commissioner for Higher Education, Peter Muirhead, has said that the one-a-week figure will probably have to become two a week if the demand is to be met. "We can expect double the present enrollment in existing junior colleges and a thousand more will have to be built in the next decade," says Muirhead. "To put it another way, what we have done in the past 300 years we will have to do all over again in the next ten years."

That's a very large order, but no one seems unduly alarmed. We have lots of old department stores and scads of barns that can be made into community college campuses—instantly. ■

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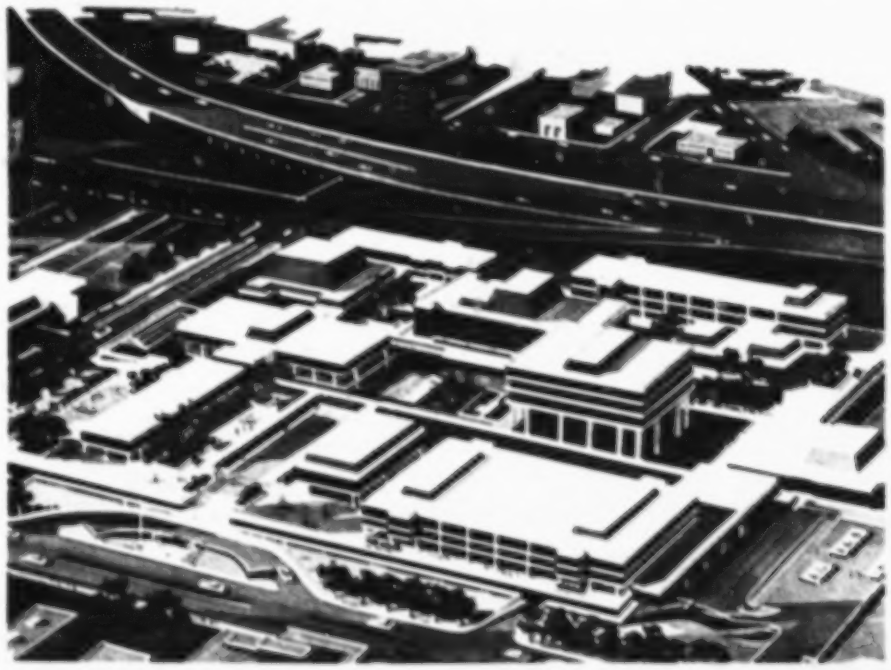

College plants sprout in least expected places as education growth extends across the Nation

Cuyahoga officials inspect a surplus VA hospital, above left. Spruced up, left, it serves as Tri-C's western campus. Elevators and escalators remind Community College of Philadelphia students that the campus was once a department store.

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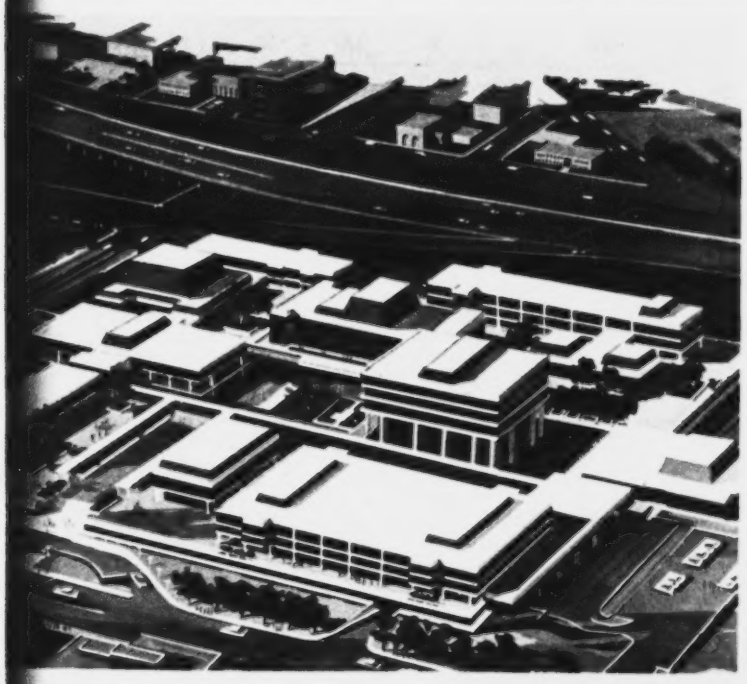

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